

What we claim is:-

1. A method of operating a communication device in a mobile communications network, the device operating using a protocol having a physical layer, and at least an RRC (radio resource control) layer and an RLC (radio link control) layer of a UMTS system,, wherein the RRC layer is arranged to submit an SDU to the RLC layer for communication using the physical layer, the method comprising
 - in response to a signal from said RLC layer, said signal being indicative of discard of said SDU:
 - causing said RRC layer to resubmit said SDU to said RLC layer a predetermined number N of times; and
 - in response to N further signals indicative of said discard, causing said RRC layer to submit to said RLC layer a CELL UPDATE message indicative of an unrecoverable error in said RLC layer for emission in response thereto.
2. A method according to claim 1, further comprising setting an operating mode wherein an acknowledgement of successful reception of said SDU is awaited.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein $N=0$.
4. A method of operating a mobile communications network having at least one cell, said cell having at least one user communication device and at least one network control device for communicating with the or each user communication device, the or each user device operating using a protocol having a physical layer, and at least an RRC (radio resource control) layer and an RLC (radio link control) layer of a UMTS,

wherein the RRC layer is arranged to submit an SDU to the RLC layer for communication using the physical layer, the method comprising

in response to a signal from said RLC layer, said signal being indicative of discard of said SDU, causing said RRC layer to resubmit said SDU to said RLC layer
5 a predetermined number N of times;

and in response to N further signals indicative of said discard submitting by said RRC layer to said RLC layer of a CELL UPDATE message arranged to cause the network control device to emit for said user communication device a CELL UPDATE CONFIRM message arranged to cause said user device to reconfigure to a determined
10 state.

5. A method according to claim 4, further comprising setting an operating mode wherein an acknowledgement of successful reception of said SDU is awaited.

15 6. A method according to claim 4, wherein $N=0$.

7. A method of operating a communication device in a mobile communications network, the device operating using a protocol having a physical layer, and at least an RRC (radio resource control) layer and an RLC (radio link control) layer of a UMTS,,
20 wherein the RRC layer is arranged to submit an SDU to the RLC layer for communication using the physical layer, the method comprising:-

in response to a signal from said RLC layer, said signal being indicative of discard of said SDU, causing said RRC layer to resubmit said SDU to said RLC layer a predetermined number N of times;

and in response to N further signals indicative of said discard, releasing the connection between peer layers at the said device and the said network and entering an idle mode.

5 8 A method according to claim 7, further comprising setting an operating mode wherein an acknowledgement of successful reception of said SDU is awaited.

9. A method according to claim 7, wherein $N=0$.

10 10. A method of operating a user device in a mobile communications network, the device operating using a protocol having a physical layer, and at least an RRC (radio resource control) layer and an RLC (radio link control) layer of a UMTS, wherein the RRC layer is arranged to submit an SDU to the RLC layer for communication using the physical layer, the method comprising in response to a signal from said RLC
15 layer, said signal being indicative of discard of said SDU, causing said RRC layer to resubmit said SDU to said RLC layer a predetermined number of times N and in response to N further signals indicative of said discard:

performing an error recovery procedure;

if said error recovery procedure occurs during an ongoing procedure for which
20 special action is specified in the relevant standard specification, executing that action appropriate to said error recovery procedure occurring during that ongoing procedure.

11 A method according to claim 10, wherein said error recovery procedure
25 comprises a CELL UPDATE procedure.

12. A method according to claim 10, further comprising setting an operating mode wherein an acknowledgement of successful reception of said SDU is awaited.
- 5 13. A method according to claim 10, wherein $N=0$.